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ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *IRDEX* BURR
(DERMAPTERA: LABIIDAE) FROM NEW GUINEA

The genus *Irdex* Burr, was represented in New Guinea by four species, i. e., *I. ernstmayri* Günther, 1932; *I. brevis* Brindle, 1970; *I. novaeguineae* Boeseman, 1954 and *I. papuana* (Brindle, 1970a). The last species was described under the genus *Argusina* Hebard (1927) which has been synonymised with *Irdex* by SRIVASTAVA (1975).

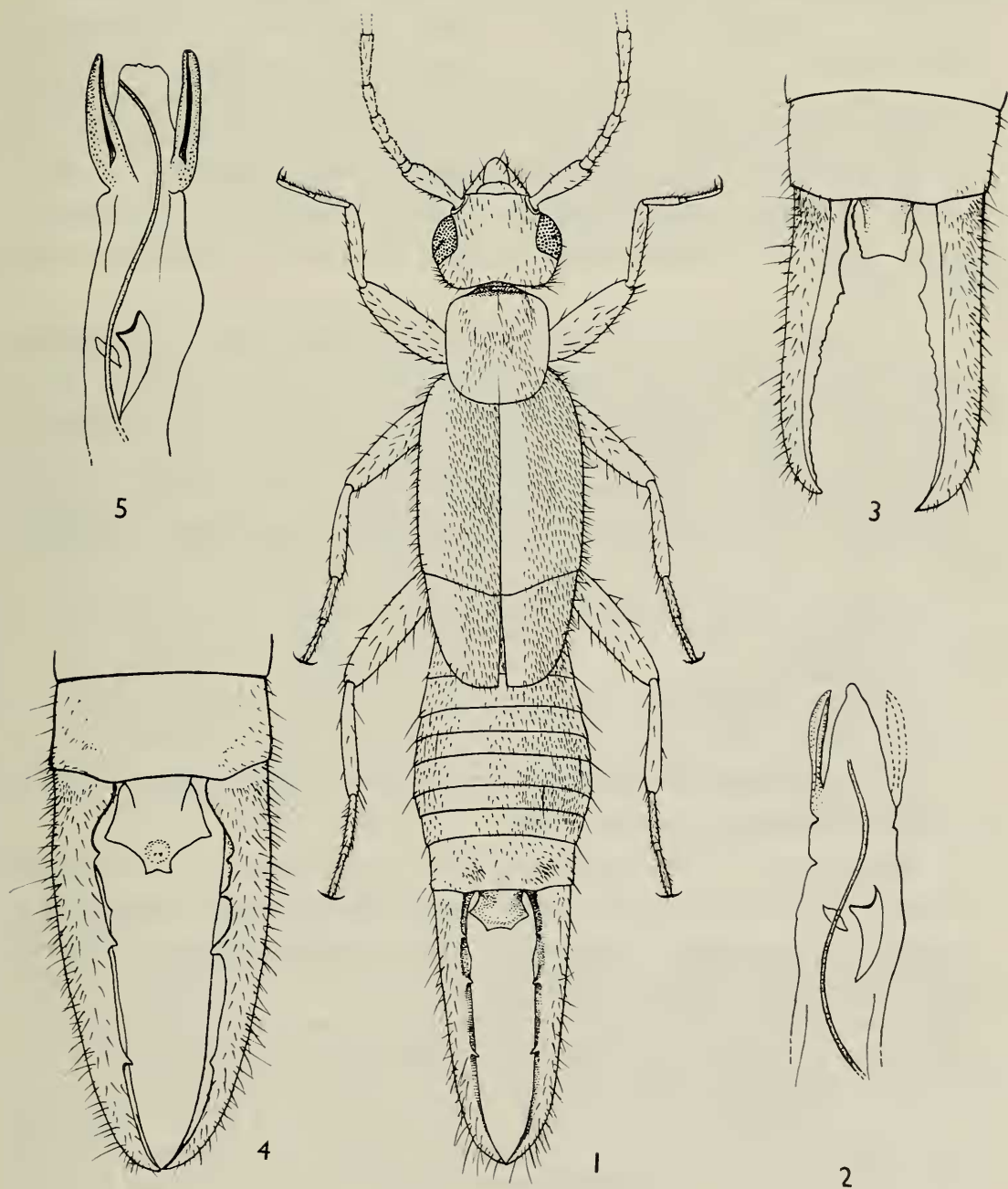
Recently, while examining some identified material received from Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova, Italy, it was found that 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ belong to a new species which is described below.

***Irdex poggi* sp. n.**

Material examined - N. Guinea SE, Moroka, 1300 m, Holotype ♂, Paratype 2 ♀♀, Loria, VII-XI, 1893 (Det. by BORMANS as *Labia dufouri*); genitalia mounted on a celluloid slip and pinned with the specimen (Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova, Italy).

General colour blackish brown, pubescent.

♂: Head smooth, moderately convex, hind margin feebly emarginate in middle, sutures obsolete. Eyes about twice as long as the post ocular length. Antennae partly broken (only two segments on the left and ten on the right remaining); basal segment almost equal to the combined length of 2nd to 4th segments, stout, gently narrowed basally; 2nd small, about as long as broad; 3rd long and cylindrical, almost equal to 5th in length; 4th slightly shorter than preceding; remaining segments gradually thinning and increasing in length distally. Pronotum slightly longer than broad, anterior margin convex, sides straight, flat, hind angles and margin well rounded, median sulcus obliterated; prozona feebly raised and metazona flat. Legs typical of the genus. Elytra and wings well developed. Abdomen moderately convex, gently enlarged



Irdex poggii n. sp. - Fig. 1: ♂, dorsal view; fig. 2: ♂, genitalia; fig. 3: ♀, ultimate tergite and forceps.

Irdex papuana Brindle - Fig. 4: ♂, ultimate tergite and forceps; fig. 5: ♂, genitalia.

in middle, impunctate, sides of segments rounded. Penultimate sternite transverse, broadly rounded posteriorly. Ultimate tergite smooth transverse, hardly depressed in middle posteriorly, hind margin trisinuate, oblique laterally above the roots of forceps. Pygidium narrowed, sloping downwards at base, apically expanded and horizontal, laterally, forming a triangular lobe, hind margin emarginate, postero-lateral angles provided with minute point. Forceps remote at base, intervening space almost filled up by the pygidium, depressed, tapering apically, branches almost straight in basal two thirds, afterwards gently arched with apices hooked and pointed, internally at base trigonal for a short distance, ventrally margin sharp and dorsally armed with three teeth, smallest near the base and largest at basal two thirds. Genitalia as seen in the figure 2.

♀: Agrees with ♂ in most characters except that the ultimate tergite comparatively less transverse; pygidium convex at base, subvertical, apically depressed and horizontal, hind margin emarginate with angles faintly produced, laterally margin convex and serrated; forceps with inner ventral margin projecting and armed with several teeth, largest one near the base and gradually becoming smaller towards apex.

M e a s u r e m e n t s - (in mm)	♂	♀♀
Length of body	6.3	6.7-7.1
Length of forceps	2.5	2.3-2.65

This species has been named after Dr. R. Poggi of Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova, Italy .

R e m a r k s : The described species resembles with *I. pygidiata* (Dubrony) from the Oriental Region but it can be easily separated by blackish brown general colouration; eyes in being slightly less than double the length of head behind eyes; pygidium with postero-lateral angles produced in the form of minute tooth and forceps with inner ventral margin sharp only and the ♂ parameres pointed apically.

In *I. pygidiata* general body colour is uniform brown; eyes are only slightly longer than the post-ocular length; pygidium somewhat similar but the tooth at postero-lateral angles is prominent and forceps with inner margin dorsally as well as ventrally are armed with numerous larger and smaller teeth, in apical half margin serrated also. The ♂ parameres somewhat blunt apically.

From *I. novaeguineae* Boeseman, known only by ♀, the described species can be, however, separated by the smaller size and the shape of pronotum which is longer than broad.

Following is the key for separating all the known species from New Guinea area including the new species described in the present paper:

- 1 (6). Size smaller (9-10 mm).
- 2 (3). Eyes only slightly longer than the length of head behind eyes; pronotum slightly broader than long; ♂ pygidium large, narrowed apically, hind margin in middle concave with a minute point postero - laterally; forceps broad and short *I. brevis* Brindle
- 3 (2). Eyes only slightly shorter than double the length of head behind eyes; pronotum slightly longer than broad; ♂ pygidium subvertical, narrowed at base, afterwards forming a depressed plate, produced laterally into a triangular lobe and hind margin may be produced or emarginate and forceps long.
- 4 (5). Uniformly reddish brown, ♂ pygidium distally projecting with the tip bifid and provided with a tubercle above (fig. 4); parameres broader at base gradually narrowing apically, tip somewhat obtuse (fig. 5) *I. papuana* (Brindle)
- 5 (4). Uniformly blackish brown, ♂ pygidium not produced distally, postero-lateral angles with minute point and hind margin emarginate, tubercle above wanting; parameres narrowed at base, gently enlarged in middle, apices somewhat pointed. *I. poggii* sp. n.
- 6 (1). Size larger (18-20 mm);
- 7 (8). Pronotum slightly longer than broad, gently widened posteriorly *I. ernstmayri* Günther (known by ♂ only)
- 8 (7). Pronotum about as long as broad, square, sides parallel, almost of uniform width. *I. novaeguineae* Boeseman (known by ♀ only)

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RIASSUNTO

In base ad esemplari raccolti a Moroka (Nuova Guinea) da L. Loria, l' A. descrive *Irdex poggii* n. sp., prossima ad *I. pygidiata* (Dubrony). Viene inoltre fornita una tabella per la determinazione delle cinque specie di *Irdex* note per la Nuova Guinea.

SUMMARY

In the present paper *Irdex poggii*, a new species of Dermaptera from New Guinea (collected in Moroka by L. Loria), that comes very close to *I. pygidiata* (Dubrony), has been described. A key has also been given for separating all the known species of *Irdex* from New Guinea.
